for LPG connections in the country and in Madhya Pradesh were as below:

Figs. in lakhs

	In the country	In Madhya Pradesh
Customer Population	207.34	11.00
Waiting list	114.2	4.42

(c) and (f) The waiting period for new LPG connection depends upon the number of persons on the waiting list with the distributors, slack with the distributors and the annual programme for enrolment of new customers. Efforts are constantly on to release LPG connections to as many applicants and as early as possible, by ensuring higher product availability through augmenting production from existing sources, setting up and commissioning of new projects and higher imports.

Funding of the Projects in Petrol Sector

2979. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision of funding petrol sector projects;

(b) if so, whether the modalities of funding these projects have been worked out;

(c) if so, whether there has been a cost escalation of more then 2 times requiring 21,000 crores during the 8th Plan period;

(d) whether it is a fact that the original cost of these projects was Rs. 23,397.17 crores but now it has been recosted as 30,009.34 crores;

(e) if so, whether Government have allowed funding these projects with a determination not to prevent further delays; and

(f) if so, the details of the modalities worked out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Amount spent on Advertisements by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

2980. SHRI. MOHAMMED AFZAL Alias MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the details of the amount spent by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas on advertisements given to the Newspapers direct or through DAVP. etc. during the period 1992-93 and 1993-94, language wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATES FOR PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Negotiation between Mobil India and Government

2981. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Mobil India had negotiations with Government to start its own exclusive petrol retailing network in the Country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the nature of the agreement, if any, arrived at with Mobil India; and

(c) what are the implications involved in so far as the domestic petrol retailing outlets are concerned vis-a-vis the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.